

LESSON

29

RUBRIC

Comparison-Contrast Essay

COPYMASTER

Directions: Evaluate a comparison-contrast essay using the table below. For each element of the essay, mark a score from 1–3 indicating “Strong,” “Average,” or “Weak.”

	3 (Strong)	2 (Average)	1 (Weak)
Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement is focused and presents the subject of the description.• Details and examples support each key idea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement presents comparison/ contrast but is too broad or too narrow.• Details and examples support most key ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thesis statement is unclear or missing.• Details and examples are not relevant or too scarce.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction clearly presents subjects being compared and contrasted and draws reader in.• Conclusion summarizes ideas and offers an observation.• Transitions clearly show how ideas connect.• Organization is logical and consistent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction presents subjects being compared and contrasted but does not draw reader in.• Conclusion simply summarizes ideas.• Most transitions work, but more are needed.• Organization shows logic but is inconsistent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction does not clearly set up what the essay is about.• Essay lacks an identifiable conclusion.• Writer uses few or no transitions.• Organization is random or disjointed.
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice suit purpose and audience.• Writing reflects active engagement with topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice suit purpose and audience but seem flat or direct.• Writing engages topic inconsistently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tone and voice do not suit purpose or audience.• Writing lacks an engaging voice.
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words are specific, accurate, and precise.• Well-chosen words and phrases create memorable descriptions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words are adequate and mostly correct.• Familiar words and phrases rarely capture the reader’s imagination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocabulary choice is limited.• Wording is vague.
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentences vary in length and structure.• Sentence beginnings are varied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentence length and structure vary little.• Sentence beginnings have some variety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sentence structure lacks variety.• Many sentences begin the same way.
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are correct.• Grammar and usage are correct.• Paragraphing reinforces organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are uneven.• Grammar and usage are not always correct.• Paragraphing is sometimes inconsistent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling and punctuation are often wrong.• Many grammar and usage errors are present.• Paragraphing is missing or irregular.